

REMARKS

Claims 2-4, 9-13, 17, 27, 29, 30, 32, 34, 35, 37, 39, 40, 42, 45-62, and 64-76 remain pending in this application. Based on the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 29, 30, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,063,698 ("Whayne"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, since Heckele does not disclose, teach, or suggest the combination of elements required by these claims.

In particular, Applicant has submitted herewith a Declaration of Michael J. Bolan pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.131, evidencing that, at the least, the inventions of claims 29, 30, and 34 were conceived prior to the effective filing date of Whayne, and that such conception was coupled with diligence prior to the effective filing date of Whayne up until the constructive reduction to practice date (filing date) of the instant application. Thus, Applicant believes that Whayne has been effectively removed as a prior art reference, and as such, cannot be used as a basis for rejection.

Thus, Applicant submits that claims 29, 30, and 34 are not anticipated by Whayne, and as such, respectfully request withdrawal of the §102 rejection of these claims as to Whayne.

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Allowable Subject Matter

While Applicant graciously acknowledges the Examiner's conclusion that claim 27 recites patentable subject matter, it is believed that independent 30 from which claim 27 depends is allowable. As such, claim 27 has not been rewritten.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, it is believed that all claims are now allowable and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (949) 724-1849.

Respectfully submitted,

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